

Dept: NIH
Valentine, Geraldine Mrs.

May 15, 1959

Mrs. Geraldine Valentine
41 Mase Avenue
Dover, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Valentine:

Thank you for your letter concerning research at the National Institutes of Health.

For a number of years I have followed carefully the research at the Institutes and know personally those who testify. I am convinced that the policy of the Institutes is to practice the highest humanitarian treatment of all living things and I am sure that unnecessary suffering of patients or animals would not be tolerated.

In answer to your specific question concerning the monkeys in the research reported by Dr. Pearce Bailey, I am advised there is no indication of suffering. It is my understanding that thousands of persons who suffer from various mental disorders are helped each year in hospitals through the use of electrical stimulation called shock treatment and there is no evidence that pain or suffering is involved in such treatment. Also, in brain surgery the doctors tell me it is necessary to use electronic stimulation to locate the extent of the lesion to be removed and that in such cases, only a local anesthetic is necessary when the electrodes are inserted into the scalp and the patient is then able to remain awake and feels no discomfort during the application of the stimulation.

I can well understand your concern for humanitarian treatment of animals. Our committee frequently reviews with care the policies and research practices of the National Institutes of Health and you may be assured that the highest standards of research, patient care, and humanitarian treatment are maintained at all times.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

John E. Fogarty, M. C.

See DEPT NIH
Selling, Eleanor